



Libby

CROOK AND WILLINGTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
OF H E A L T H
for the
Year Ended 31st December, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health - G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector - J. B. KELLY, D.P.A. (Dunelm.,) D.M.A., A.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector - W. F. WILKINSON, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector - C. E. DAVISON, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Members of
Crook and Willington U. D. C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1957 has not brought any public health problems to your area.

The decline in the number of deaths from tuberculosis continues to give satisfaction, and the fact that this disease is being treated at home, or at work, is a sign that tuberculosis as a disease is on its way out.

There are two diseases to which I would like to draw your attention. One is whooping cough and the other smallpox.

As regards the former, I regard this disease as a difficult one to deal with. Immunisation against it is not a hundred percent proof but at least it does offer a certain degree of immunity. In this part of the world one hears so many complaints about children being 'chesty' but how many of these children, immunised or unimmunised, have really had whooping cough? On close inspection of these cases it is seldom that a mother has said to me that the child has actually whooped.

As regards the latter, namely smallpox, I cannot forget an experience that I had many years ago during the height of the African Campaign in which it was essential for supplies to be forthcoming, and about this time an epidemic of smallpox arose and claimed close on five thousand victims before it was finished. The vaccination rate of this country is far too low for us to be complacent about it, and with the speed of travel now-a-days people can arrive in this country incubating smallpox and at the same time disseminating it. I would urge that the Council take due consideration of this.

The only other point which sticks out in my mind is concerned with the Mass Radiography Unit, and here again I would suggest that what I recommended in my last report be augmented, namely, that every employee of the local government before he or she is employed should have a chest x-ray, and at yearly intervals thereafter.

Attendances at the Child Welfare Centres in Crook and Willington continue to be satisfactory.

A separate section of the Report, compiled by the Chief Health Inspector, is included in this Report.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Staff in the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation during the past year.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. MACGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health.



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3.
ANNUAL REPORT - 1957

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	26,680
Area (in Acres)	...	...	15,476
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid Year)	...	...	8,735
Rateable Value	...	...	£ 186,732
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£ 640

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	378	200	178
Illegitimate	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>393</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>184</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	14.73
General Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Mid 1957)	...	...	16.1

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still)	...	...	14.90

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	414	221	193
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	15.51
Death Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	... 15.26		
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	... ... ...	... 23.00	
Deaths from Cancer	... ... ...	... ... ...	... 53
Deaths from measles (all ages)	... ... ...	... ... ...	... -
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	... ... ...	... ... ...	... 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	... ... ...	... ... ...	... -

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the past 6 years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate under 1 year	Birth Rate
1952	12.22	30.95	15.36
1953	12.54	33.08	15.50
1954	13.85	42.10	14.01
1955	13.05	22.66	13.05
1956	14.43	13.44	13.89
1957	15.51	15.26	14.73

CAUSES OF DEATHS

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases		-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	5	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		9	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		10	12
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	2	-
16.	Diabetes	...	-	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system		58	52
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	45	18
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	5	7
20.	Other heart diseases	...	24	41
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	9	14
22.	Influenza	...	3	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	3	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	15	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system		3	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea		-	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	3	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		9	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	8	-
35.	Suicide	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-
			221	193

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

6.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Dysentery	1	-	-
Measles	93	-	-
Whooping Cough	126	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	24	24	-
Erysipelas	8	-	-
Tuberculosis	17	10	4
Pneumonia	5	-	5

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1952	4	1	43	-
1953	2	-	45	-
1954	-	-	16	-
1955	-	-	6	-
1956	-	-	14	-
1957	-	-	24	-

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1957

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25 - 44 yrs.	45 - 64 yrs.	65 and Over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	16	3	1	-	-	-	24
Whooping Cough	17	28	45	34	1	-	1	-	-	126
Measles	5	17	32	34	4	1	-	-	-	93
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	8
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	5
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 44	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-
45 - 64	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	7	5	2	3	2	-	1	1

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER

AT 31st DECEMBER 1957

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
218	179	397	115	132	247	644

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

YEAR	New Cases						Deaths						No. on Register at end of Year					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1952	11	12	23	2	4	6	2	4	6	-	-	-	148	118	266	100	117	217
1953	8	7	15	3	5	8	4	3	7	1	-	1	152	122	274	102	122	224
1954	16	13	29	3	1	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	168	135	303	105	122	227
1955	10	8	18	2	2	4	1	-	1	-	1	1	201	164	365	109	126	235
1956	4	8	12	2	1	3	5	1	6	-	-	-	211	174	385	113	129	242
1957	7	5	12	2	3	5	2	-	2	1	1	2	218	179	397	115	132	247

(1) WATER SUPPLY :

The Durham County Water Board are the principal suppliers of water in this area and the vast majority of houses in the area are connected to their mains. No houses are supplied by means of stand pipes but a few farms and cottages are dependent upon well supplies.

A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :-

<u>Physical Examination</u>	<u>Waskerley</u>	<u>Tunstall</u>
Colour Hazen Units	28.75	40
Turbidity	slight	slight
Odour	none	none
pH Value	6.5 to 6.7	6.7

<u>General Chemical Examination</u>	<u>Parts per million</u>
Total Solids	50 to 100
Suspended Solids	Trace
Hardness as Ca CO ₃	
Carbonate hardness	Nil to 1.8
Non-carbonate hardness	35.6 - 67.6
Total hardness	35.6 - 69.4
Chlorides as Cl	10.0 - 12.0
Nitrates as N	0.31 - 0.48
Free and Saline Ammonia as N	0.026 - 0.233
Albumoid Ammonia as N	0.073 - 0.135
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours @ 27°C as O	3.05 - 9.25
	5.86

There is no evidence of plumbo solvent action in the water supplied in the area.

During the year 3 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle. 2 of these samples were regarded as satisfactory and the other sample, taken from a shallow well at East Lodge, Fir Tree, Crook, was found to be suspicious.

Miscellaneous queries and complaints regarding water supply, including a complaint of turbidity, were dealt with as they arose.

(2) VISITS :

The following is a summary of the visits undertaken by Officers of the Department during the year in pursuit of their official duties :

(1) Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts) -	-	-	-	-	-	3288	visits
(2) W.C. Conversions and defective sanitary conveniences -	-	-	-	-	-	688	"
(3) Drainage -	-	-	-	-	-	335	"
(4) Water Supply -	-	-	-	-	-	25	"
(5) Food Premises -	-	-	-	-	-	143	"
(6) Shops Act -	-	-	-	-	-	99	"
(7) Slaughterhouses (including visits made when inspecting meat)	-	-	-	-	-	1548	"
(8) Tents, Vans, etc. -	-	-	-	-	-	7	"
(9) Factories and Workplaces -	-	-	-	-	-	72	"
(10) Keeping of Animals -	-	-	-	-	-	19	"
(11) Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles -	-	-	-	-	-	277	"
(12) Offensive accumulations -	-	-	-	-	-	24	"
(13) Smoke Nuisances -	-	-	-	-	-	3	"
(14) Dairies -	-	-	-	-	-	24	"

(3) NUISANCES ETC. :

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year by means of notices.

	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	No. of Defects Remedied after notices
Public Health and Housing Acts.	90	19	68
Defective sanitary conveniences	23	6	10
Drainage	22	3	18
Water Supply	4	-	4
Food Premises	2	-	2
Offensive Accumulations	2	2	4
Smoke nuisances	-	1	1

(4) SCHOOLS :

Occasional inspections of Schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing and canteen facilities. No nuisances were reported.

(5) CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS :

Inspections of these premises were carried out during the year and appropriate action taken where defects occurred.

(6) SMOKE ABATEMENT :

Smoke pollution continues to cause little appreciable nuisance in this semi-rural area. Nuisances from burning rubbish and smoking chimneys have received attention as they have occurred.

(7) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS :

During the 12 months ended 31st December, 1957, 563 dwellinghouses and 180 shops and agricultural properties were inspected. Of these 149 dwelling-houses and 38 shops and other premises were found to be infested by rats and/or mice and treatment was carried out accordingly.

No charge is made for the treatment of domestic property but shops and agricultural hereditaments are treated on a cost plus supervision basis.

(8) HOUSING :

Housing inspections have again figured prominently in the number of visits made by the officers of the department. Work on the Council's Slum Clearance Programme was continued and 17 Clearance Orders, involving a total of 175 houses, were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

So far as repair work is concerned, the majority of property owners have been willing to comply with notices of defects but in some cases persuasion and interviewing have been necessary to achieve the desired result. Wherever the opportunity occurs efforts are made to persuade owners to convert back to back property into through houses and advice is given on the best methods of effecting the conversion. Various owners have consulted the department on the modernisation of their properties and the provision of desirable amenities.

The Rent Act, 1957, came into operation during the year under review and between 6th July and 31st December, 1957, 43 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received in the department. Decisions to issue Certificates were made by the Council in all cases and, subsequently, 20 undertakings were received from landlords of property involved. By the end of the year 11 Certificates of Disrepair had been issued.

Many visits have been made during the year to the premises of applicants for rehousing in connection with overcrowding, measurement of rooms, and standards of cleanliness.

(9) SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES :

Numerous visits have been paid to shops, food preparing premises and licensed premises throughout the district. Additional inspections were undertaken under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and in two cases it was necessary to serve Informal Notices on the occupiers of food premises, to secure

the necessary standards of hygiene. In general, however, the standard of hygiene in the shops has been satisfactory.

The following premises in the area are concerned with the manufacture and/or retailing of food :

23 Butchers
 5 Chemists
 20 Confectioners
 22 Fish Shops
 4 Fruiterers
 63 General Dealers
 10 Greengrocers
 50 Grocers
 2 Stalls
 20 Restaurants, Schools' Kitchens, Hotel Kitchens and Canteens
 9 Bakehouses
 2 Food Premises
 15 Premises registered for the preparation of manufacture of sausages or preserved etc. food
 3 Premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream
 33 Milk Distributors, 29 of these being registered as dairies

The three premises affected by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947-52 operated satisfactorily. Routine samples were taken during the course of the year for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle.

5 applications for licences to retail ice cream have been granted during the year. The total number of premises registered for this purpose is now 67.

23 licences to retail pasteurised milk were issued during the year together with 17 licences to retail sterilised milk. 3 Supplementary licences were also issued.

(10) SLAUGHTERHOUSES :

Some indication of the work involved in meat inspection is given by the fact that 1548 visits were made to such premises during the year. 18 slaughterhouses were registered for the purpose of slaughtering and the state of cleanliness generally prevailing was satisfactory.

In April, 1957, the Wholesale Slaughterhouse at Hunwick was transferred to Marshall Green, Witton-le-Wear, and the numbers of animals slaughtered has been increasing since that time.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number of Carcasses inspected	3,729	586	206	9,000	9,922
All diseases except <u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	1	12	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	571	-	-	14	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.31	0.34	0.49	0.29	0.60
<u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	5	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	204	-	-	-	175

	13. Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
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Percentage of the number
inspected affected with
tuberculosis

5.58 1.40 - - 1.77

No carcase was found to be affected with Cysticercosis

(11) FOOD ETC. CONDEMNED :

During the year, 9 tons, 14 cwts. 2st. 13 lbs. of fresh meat, and 1 ton, 4 cwts. 2 st. 12 lbs. of miscellaneous tinned foods and loose provisions were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Carcasses and large amounts of meat, after staining, are disposed of to either Messrs. Jonnings and Co. Ltd., Darlington, or to Mr. Miller, Hamstorley, who both operate private arrangements with butchers affected. Small items of condemned meat are burnt or buried privately by the butchers concerned. Unsound tinned food and loose provisions are buried at the Council's refuse tips.

(12) W.C. CONVERSIONS :

During the year, 358 conversions from ash closets to the water carriage system took place. The comparative figure for 1955 was 299 conversions and for 1956 was 200 conversions. The average cost of each conversion was in the region of £35.

(13) PUBLIC CLEANSING :

Figures are for the period 1/4/57 to 31/3/58.

Statistics:

Number of premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	9,221
Number of collections (approx.)	...	...	...	...	583,492
Total refuse collected	...	...	...	...	20,994 tons
Yield per premise per yr.	...	...	...	...	2.272 "
Average haul to tips	...	...	...	...	2 miles
Number of tips	...	...	...	...	5 "
Number of men employed (average)	...	...	...	...	38
Number of vehicles employed (average)	...	...	...	...	12 "

(14) SALVAGE :

35½ tons of salvage were dispatched during the year, resulting in an income of £315. 16s. 10d.

Deliveries to Thames Board Mills were limited throughout the year to 10 tons a quarter.

(15) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948 :

During the year 72 inspections of premises subject to the Factories Acts were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation.

